

and third grade teacher. Since first graduating from Georgia Southern University with her bachelor's degree in early childhood education, Ms. Carter has dedicated her life to teaching and sharing her passion for reading with her students.

Earlier this year, my team visited Waynesboro Primary School and met Ms. Carter, whose positive attitude, passion for teaching, and motivation to help young people thrive were clear.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, it is my honor to recognize Mandy Carter for her unwavering commitment to Georgia's children and her two decades of teaching.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. DANIEL SIMMONS

● Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to honor and commend a pastor and a public servant who is a pillar of the Albany, GA, community. Dr. Daniel Simmons accepted the call to serve as pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, GA, in 1991. Under his and First Lady Diane's leadership, Mount Zion has seen significant growth and has contributed to the community's success.

Pastor Simmons has championed efforts to give back to the community, hosting food drives for the hungry, donating supplies to special needs classrooms and senior homes, paying off mortgages, and more. Pastor Simmons is no stranger to Albany, earning his bachelor's degree from Albany State University before earning his master's from the University of Georgia and his doctorate of ministry from Bethany Theological Seminary in Dothan, AL.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, it is my honor to commend Pastor Dr. Daniel Simmons for his lifetime of service and more than 30 years leading Mount Zion Baptist Church.●

RECOGNIZING COTTINGHAM HARDWARE

● Mr. PAUL. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Cottingham Hardware of Alexandria, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

All across the Nation are American small towns whose Main Street businesses bring color and vibrancy to their community. These businesses might be stores that occupy a specific niche or may be the product of one entrepreneur's dreams turned reality. Many of these businesses however, are simply shops that the community has come to rely on, with a top-quality product or service that keeps their customers coming back. Such is the case for Alexandria's Cottingham Hardware, also referred to as Cottingham Ace, that was founded in 1957. This hardware store has been faithfully serving its

customers for 65 years, easily cementing the business as community institution.

Sixty-five years ago, Tom and Betty Cottingham opened Cottingham Hardware, a hardware store right in the heart of the little town of Alexandria, KY. Since its inception over six decades ago, the store has been dutifully serving its customers, offering them whatever hardware goods they might need, including but not limited to, specialty chrome, electrical lighting, as well as lawn and garden tools. The store also carries a large selection of firearms and ammunition, making the shop especially popular during northern Kentucky's busy hunting season. In addition to the wide array of products available for purchase at Cottingham, the store has two mechanics who are always available to meet the needs of customers, with both mechanics having received the proper training and certification to handle practically any job. They boast a selection that is appropriate for all types of customers, whether they be a first-time homeowner or the owner of multi-acre properties; they have the products and services to help with any project.

Started by a married couple, Cottingham Hardware continues to be a family business. Tom and Betty's three sons practically grew up in the store, so it would only make sense that the three men choose to perpetuate their parents' dream and run the store with the same dedication and customer-friendly atmosphere that Tom and Betty created. The three sons, Tom, Mike, and Joe, took over the business in the mid 90s, roughly a decade after Cottingham Hardware moved from their original location right in Alexandria out to U.S. Highway 27. The three brothers led the business through a vast array of modernizations, opting for computerized systems in place of the original manual inventory and registry systems. Today, Cottingham Hardware can easily locate a necessary piece of machinery as it travels along the supply chain before arriving at their store. The Cottingham men understood that to lead their parents' business into the modern era requires these types of technological advancements, and they make sure Cottingham Hardware stays on the cutting edge of modern computer equipment.

In addition to their eye for key modernizations to the hardware store, the Cottingham brothers understand that their parents' success was due in large part to their dedication to family values. Tom, Mike, and Joe maintain a strict policy that at least one of the Cottingham brothers is in store at any given time during business hours, all 7 days a week. Friends and neighbors are constantly coming through their doors to purchase tools or equipment and to visit with the familiar faces of the Cottingham store. These days, even the brothers' children occasionally work with them in store, entering in to a new generation of Cottingham family

leadership. Moreover, Cottingham Hardware maintains their dedication to the Alexandria community, as they often participate in donations for local schools and churches. Additionally, Joe Cottingham is a member of the Northern Kentucky Area Development District—NKADD—representing Campbell County. NKADD strives to achieve sustainable economic growth and improve the overall quality of life for the citizens of Kentucky. Clearly the Cottingham family is dedicated not only to running a successful family business, but to championing and supporting small businesses around the State as well. For that reason, it gives me great pleasure to honor this multi-generation family business as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Congratulations to the Cottingham brothers and the entire team at Cottingham Hardware. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

TRIBUTE TO JIM CONDOS

● Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I rise today to honor Jim Condos of South Burlington and Montpelier, VT. Jim is retiring as Vermont Secretary of State after more than 35 years in public service.

A lifelong Vermonter, Jim has served his community at multiple levels of government. After 18 years as a South Burlington city councilor, he went on to represent Chittenden County in the Vermont State Senate. In 2010, Jim was elected secretary of state, a position that he has held for the past 12 years. During his tenure, Jim has been recognized as an expert on election administration and has served in such roles as president of the National Association of Secretaries of State, a member of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors, an executive board member for the Council of State Government, and the national cochair of the Overseas Voting Initiative for Military Personnel and Overseas Citizens. Jim has also been called upon by Congress to share his expertise, specifically on voting and election cybersecurity.

Thanks in large part to Jim's leadership, Vermont is widely considered a leader in voter access. At a time when the right to vote is being curtailed in many States, Jim and his team have expanded Vermonters' access to democracy through same-day registration, automatic voter registration, online voter registration, ADA-accessible voting, universal vote-by-mail, and ballot dropboxes. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Jim's office implemented safe voting options so that Vermonters did not need to choose between their health and their right to vote. His pro-voter policies also led to record-shattering voter turnout, for both early and total voting, in the 2022 midterm and 2020 Presidential elections. This work has all been done while ensuring the integrity of elections through election